

The Millville Public School Express:

PROVIDING A WORLD CLASS EXPERIENCE FOR ALL STUDENTS SEPTEMBER 28, 2016

Cultivating Dreams Together

First, welcome everyone! And I do mean everyone!! This is the inaugural edition of our newsletter. Through our new partnership with The *REmindER*, we will bring you positive happenings from within our school district monthly. All too often there is too much negativity in our news these days. Our collective goal is to share a smile and story about our students.

We (MPS) are in the business of dream cultivation. Every employee in our district plays a critical role in ensuring that our students' dreams come true. From the simple gestures, a warm smile, to the technical expertise in explaining a mathematical concept to a student, our staff is dedicated to doing its best so our children can do their best.

In the MPS District, we have asked ourselves to answer one simple question. "Why do we show up each day?"

The answer: "we believe all kids can learn at high levels – and all means ALL".

As the district superintendent, I believe we must focus on cultivating dreams, inspiring critical thinking, embracing technology as a critical learning tool, and helping our students learn how to love curiosity and discovery.

MPS has been on a journey; our journey is to be the very best school district we can be. Our vision is to cre-

ate a world-class school district involving all stakeholders where every child can learn. We can't accomplish that without involving all stakeholders – and that is where you come in. We invite you to become an active partner in our district. We recognize you are busy so for some being a partner may simply be sharing one of the positive stories you read in the *REmindER* about our schools.

For others, you may want to contact my office to inquire about becoming a mentor for a student. Regardless of your level of involvement, I want you to know it is appreciated. From the accounting and business offices to registration and transportation, to curriculum and instruction, to special services, to maintenance and custodial, to security and cafeteria workers, child study team members and to anyone I neglected to mention – we are all here for kids. And we can't ever forget it. We want to make sure you have an opportunity to hear our story and become involved.

I want to end by thanking our students, staff, and community for being awesome! Enjoy the following stories about the Millville Public School District.

"All aboard the Millville Public School Express"

— Dr. David Gentile
Superintendent of the
Millville Public Schools



Dr. David Gentile

Our Community Counts: LMS and Millville Neighborhood Alliance



Recently we held our first Millville Neighborhood Alliance program "Our Community Counts." There were representatives from local government, agencies, and the public library. Mrs. Lokuta's first period 8th grade AVID students attended the meeting to learn about the unique opportunity they have this year. The Neighborhood Alliance wants our students to identify and attempt to solve problems they see in the community. Kim Ayars, above, chairperson of the Neighborhood Alliance, presented to the students on the great things happening in Millville. We also did an icebreaker activity and the students were able to personally introduce themselves to the members of the Neighborhood Alliance. Our next meeting is on October 13th.

Parents, Get the Scoop on College Admissions

We are hosting our annual College Admissions and Financial Aid Night at 6:45 p.m. Monday, Oct. 3 in the MSHS Auditorium. Counselors will be there along with a guest speaker to discuss the various steps of the college admission process. This year we have invited a guest speaker to explain financial aid because the FAFSA is now available at the beginning of October. It is important for families to attend so that they can gain a better understanding of the college admissions procedure and hear about the changes in the FAFSA and the financial aid process. If you have any questions, please call 327-6056.

The Front Door Project

Mrs. Bergman has been teaching at Lakeside Middle School for five years. She has had the pleasure to be welcomed into the community through her students and colleagues in such a sincere way that she decided it was time to give back. The concept of the "Front Door Project" came to her after spending many hours walking her young son around her own town. She began to notice that the streets with freshly painted front doors were her favorite to walk. Something so simple as a colored door brightened up the homes and the neighborhood. It inspired her to repaint her front door.

Since noticing this aspect of her neighborhood, it has always been on her mind to spread this concept. She thought where better to bring this mission than to Millville, her home away from home.

A fresh, brightly painted front door can transform a street, and the teamwork behind it can transform a community. As a teacher she is always looking for ways to extend her passion beyond the cement walls of Lakeside. Here it is: The Front Door Project. One door at a time- to help transform and build the community. For more information please visit this website: <http://www.frontdoorproject.com/>



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Just Be Awesome This Year

Awesome (adj): *extremely impressive, inspiring great admiration, extremely good, excellent.*

At the heart and core of who we are and what we do as a school are beliefs that everyone can be awesome, everyone is awesome, everyone can do awesome things, and everyone can make awesome choices. Regardless of where we come from or what we look like, we all have awesomeness inside us. So, let it out! Today, choose to be awesome.

That being said, I believe I work in an awesome school full of awesome people, and we just had an awesome few weeks. School is officially back in business. Learning is in full swing. Bacon pride is swelling. And to top it off, we just had two great events - our first Bacon Community Night, and our annual Back to School Night.

Inspired by the block parties that took place over the summer, we here at Bacon hosted our own block party-style event - a community night in which all members of the neighborhood were welcome to come, hang out, play some games, and have fun. For an inaugural event, I'm happy to say it went well. The Bacon staff (and their friends and families) went above and beyond to pull all the pieces together in order to have this be a successful and fun event. We also had a lot of help from members of the community and some local business. I'd like to thank each and every student, staff member, parent, business, law enforcement and fire department officer, community member, and community leader who took time to join us. Members and representatives from the Millville Police Department, Millville Fire Department,



Mike Coyle

Cumberland County Sheriff's Department, Millville and Cumberland County Explorers, MSHS Leader's Club, United Advocacy Group, Home School Association, Phenom Factory, the Phi Beta Sigma fraternity, and TD Bank showed up to lend their support. Thank you all! It was a great night full of games, activities, eats and treats, friendship, fun, and family. We are planning on having another one in the spring. Will you join us?

We also just hosted our annual Back to School night. The evening began with members of the Phi Beta Sigma fraternity and Bacon staff "clapping in" our parents as they arrived. From there, we had a brief gathering in the gym where members of the Millville Police Chaplains, United Advocacy Group, Home School Association, and Phi Beta Sigma spoke to the parents about ways to plug in and help support our Bacon Bears and Bacon family. Each group also had tables set up so parents could ask questions and get information about the programs and services available. A member of the Cumberland County Prosecutor's office was also on hand to share information with parents about ways students can be safe and make good choices, and our cafeteria manager, Candy Devich, even had food samples available so the parents could taste for themselves how delicious healthy eating can be. It was a great night, and we thank everyone who participated and helped.

Be great. Be awesome.
Mike Coyle
Principal, R.M. Bacon
Elementary School

Thunderbolt Academy Opens

Millville School District has partnered with Camelot Education to open the new Thunderbolt Academy! "The Academy" is a different kind of alternative school where students receive support and assistance to be successful in a return to a regular school setting and in future employment. The Camelot staff consists of behavior modification specialists that have all worked previously in Camelot schools in various parts of the country.

Students in "The Academy" are measured on academic growth, attendance and behavior. Any student that is consistently rated highly in all three areas has the opportunity to pledge into the student government level. Along with positive ratings and increased status come additional opportunities such as different dress code options and access to the "Bolts" lounge. In the "Bolt" lounge students may use their Chromebook to work on school assignments in the comfort of plush leather furniture. Students that achieve high status may also have the opportunity to participate in after school activities and sports programs.



grams.

The Academy has a current enrollment of 40 students and has the capacity to grow and include an additional 40 students. Students that are successful at The Academy may return to the regular high school setting at the end of either the first or second semester.

Lightning Strikes Bogart's Books

We hosted our first Lightning Strikes Bogarts where students, teachers and parents were treated to lemonade, snacks and discounted books. These monthly events will provide our students the opportunity to read, write and eventually create something interesting while supporting local a local business. Lightning Strikes Bogart's will be meeting the Second Saturday of each month with different themes and activities from 11 AM to 12 PM.



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Scenes from a Fun Community Night



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It's the Anticipation!

Mrs. Sparacio's first grade class at Holly Heights School in Millville eagerly anticipates monarch butterflies emerging from their chrysalises.



Off to a Successful Start

The Child Family Center is off to another very successful school year. Our staff spent a day in the summer recruiting children throughout the streets of Millville. We are experiencing the results of that walk as we are almost at capacity with our three and four year old children. Child Family Center is located next to Wheaton Arts on Wade Boulevard. We accept all children who are three by October 1st.

Our preschool program provides a safe and nurturing learning environment that focuses on enhancing the child's social, emotional, cognitive and physical development. We offer certified teachers and highly competent instructional aides as well as small class size and support services for children with special needs. We welcome visitors who may be interested in sending a child to our program.

*JoAnn D. Burns
Principal Child Family Center*

Lunch With a Cop at R.D. Wood School

Students at R.D. Wood School in Millville have a bond with local law enforcement officers that extends over lunch. For the third consecutive year R.D. Wood Elementary School has continued its Lunch with a Cop Program. The program involves the Millville Police Department and the Cumberland County Sheriff's Department. Both departments share lunch with the students every Tuesday and Wednesday. On these two days the local law enforcement officers share a meal, conversation and a laugh with the youngsters.

The program began three years ago and is designed to help students to become friends of law enforcement officers. The program was started by Bob Garton a retired police officer and head of security at Wood School. Bob Garton thought the program would help students to be better acquainted with the officers that serve the Millville area. "When this first



started the students were scared to death of the officers," Garton said. "But after a few weeks the kids are putting their arms around the officers and getting to know their names."

Officer Sue Taylor, the juvenile officer

for the Millville Police Department, even visits the classroom and is in the hallways greeting and talking to students. "It is nice when they finally open up to us and give us a hug because they are not afraid of us," Taylor said.



Mrs. Pierce's class (Child Family Center) learning about fish



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